

1 Bradley Schrager, Esq.  
Nevada State Bar No. 10217  
2 Daniel Bravo, Esq.  
Nevada State Bar No. 13078  
3 WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO,  
4 SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP  
3556 E. Russell Road, 2nd Floor  
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89120-2234  
Telephone: (702) 341-5200/Fax: (702) 341-5300  
6 Email: bschrager@wrslawyers.com

7 *Attorney for Defendant Anastasia Popova*

8  
9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

10 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

11  
12 ILIA N. ZAVIALOV, in the right of and for  
the benefit of DREAM MARRIAGE GROUP,  
13 INC.,

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 ANASTASIA POPOVA, DOES 1 through  
17 50, Inclusive,

18 Defendants,

19 -and-

20 DREAM MARRIAGE GROUP, INC.,

21 Nominal Party.  
22  
23

Case No: 2:13-cv-02090-JAD-VCF

24 **DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE,**  
25 **TO STAY ON GROUNDS OF ABSTENTION, OR, IN FURTHER ALTERNATIVE, TO**  
26 **TRANSFER ON GROUNDS OF *FORUM NON CONVENIENS***

27 Defendant Anastasia Popova (hereinafter "Defendant"), by and through her attorneys,  
28 Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin, LLP, respectfully submits her motion to dismiss or, in

1 the alternative, to stay this matter on abstention grounds, or, as further alternative, to transfer on  
2 grounds of *forum non conveniens* Plaintiff's Verified Complaint, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.  
3 12(b)(1).

4 This motion is based upon the attached memorandum of points and authorities, all papers  
5 and exhibits on file herein, together with such other and further evidence and oral argument as  
6 may be presented and considered by this Court at any hearing of this Motion.

7 DATED this 5th day of December, 2013.

8  
9 **WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO,  
10 SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP**

11 By: /s/ Bradley Schrager, Esq.  
12 Bradley Schrager, Esq.  
13 Nevada State Bar No. 10217  
14 Daniel Bravo, Esq.  
15 Nevada State Bar No. 13078  
16 WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO,  
17 SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP  
18 3556 E. Russell Road, 2nd Floor  
19 Las Vegas, Nevada 89120-2234

20 *Attorney for Defendant Anastasia Popova*

21  
22 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

23 **I. INTRODUCTION**

24 The present case is only one small installment in a series of desperate attempts by Plaintiff  
25 Ilia N. Zavialov ("Plaintiff") to thwart proceedings in a different jurisdiction—the state courts of  
26 California—that has already confirmed its authority and jurisdiction over the subject matter.  
27 Plaintiff is creating the real and imminent threat of piecemeal litigation and inconsistent  
28 adjudications between various state and federal forums, while imposing upon Defendant needless  
and duplicative expenses associated with defending parallel actions in multiple fora. Plaintiff has  
deliberately engaged in forum shopping in pursuing the instant action alongside parallel state and  
federal actions in multiple forums in three states.

1 Plaintiff should not be permitted to manipulate the judicial process and force the likelihood  
2 of contradictory and improper results upon this Court. Accordingly, the Court should dismiss or,  
3 alternatively, stay this action on abstention grounds pending the outcome of Defendant Anastasia  
4 Popova's California state court dissolution of marriage action. Otherwise, this matter should be  
5 dismissed on *forum non conveniens* grounds or transferred to the United States District Court for  
6 the Central District of California for reasons laid out below.

## 7 **II. BACKGROUND**

8 Plaintiff and Defendant are each 50% co-owners of Dream Marriage Group, Inc. (the  
9 "Company"), an international online dating service. It is undisputed that the business was  
10 conceived and put into operation as a general partnership after the parties' 2003 marriage. It was  
11 later incorporated on November 29, 2006, as a domestic for-profit Nevada corporation. Dream  
12 Marriage Group, Inc. is unquestionably community property within the marriage and under the  
13 jurisdiction of the California family law court, as both husband and wife own equal shares of the  
14 enterprise, have actively participated in the operation of the company, and are in the midst of a  
15 marriage dissolution action in California that predates the present case by more than a month. *See*  
16 Exhibit 1, in the simultaneously filed Request for Judicial Notice (hereinafter "RJN").

17 On September 6, 2013, Defendant filed a marital dissolution action in the Superior Court  
18 of Los Angeles County, California ("the California Family Law Action"). *See* RJN Exhibit 2. In  
19 that matter, the California family law court will determine the proper disposition of the couple's  
20 community property, including their respective interests in the Company.

21 On September 15, 2013, Defendant filed a motion for control of the Company in the  
22 California Family Law Action asserting that she had recently discovered that Plaintiff had been  
23 misappropriating Company funds for personal, non-community, expenses, such as supporting two  
24 mistresses and two children by his mistresses. *See* RJN Exhibit 3 at 1-2. Defendant contended that  
25 Plaintiff has been stripping the Company for his personal use, in contravention of his fiduciary  
26 duties. *See* RJN Exhibit 3 at 1-2. Defendant seeks, by her pending motion for control of the  
27 Company set for hearing on January 14, 2014 in California family court, to prevent such activities  
28 in the future, and to limit Plaintiff's access to Company funds. Defendant also demands



1 reimbursement to the community and/or the Company of all funds taken by Plaintiff for which he  
2 cannot establish a legitimate business purpose. *See* RJN Exhibit 3 at 3-4.

3 Plaintiff, in retaliation, then commenced this action (“the Nevada Action”) a month later,  
4 on October 15, 2013, filing a shareholder derivative action in the Eighth Judicial District against  
5 Defendant, seeking injunctive relief, the appointment of a receiver, and damages. *See* RJN Exhibit  
6 1. Therein, Plaintiff contends that Defendant has inappropriately taken control of various  
7 Company accounts—making, in essence, counterclaims to the allegations made in the already-  
8 pending California Family Law Action, but styling them as a shareholder derivative suit in Nevada  
9 for purposes of multiplying the litigation between the parties. *See* RJN Exhibit 1 at 6-8.

10 Not content to have brought all of the issues that will be decided in the family law case  
11 into a civil court in the Nevada Action, the very next day, on October 16, 2013, Dream Marriage,  
12 Inc., at the Plaintiff’s direction (although he had claimed in the Nevada Action he had no power,  
13 authority, or ability to bring suit or act on behalf of the Company), filed an almost identical action  
14 as this action in the United States District Court for the Central District of California (the  
15 “California Federal Action”). *See* RJN Exhibit 4. On November 22, 2013, that case was  
16 voluntarily dismissed, without prejudice.

17 On October 18, 2013, Plaintiff then filed his own, competing marital dissolution action in  
18 the Superior Court of Clark County, Washington (“the Washington Action”), when he had already  
19 been served to appear in the California Family Law Action. *See* RJN Exhibit 5. At or near the  
20 same time, Plaintiff filed a motion to quash Defendant’s petition for dissolution in the California  
21 Family Law Action, which was subsequently denied, the California court expressly confirming its  
22 jurisdiction. *See* RJN Exhibit 6 at 4-5. Further, the Washington court pointedly refused to entertain  
23 Plaintiff’s Washington petition for dissolution, rightly deferring to the California Family Law  
24 Action. *See* **Exhibit A**, Declaration of Zachary J. Fruchtengarten, Esq., Defendant’s Washington  
25 counsel, attached hereto.

26 Within 72 hours in mid-October, therefore, in what can only be described as a neurotic  
27 escalation of litigation activity, Plaintiff had filed three separate actions in three separate  
28 jurisdictions asserting largely the same claims in all three, even while contradicting his own

1 allegations at every respective turn. Plaintiff's multiple filings, and inconsistencies within those  
 2 filings, show an intense desperation to prevent proper proceedings in the family law court in  
 3 California.<sup>1</sup>

4 On November 12, 2013, Defendant properly removed the Nevada Action to the United  
 5 States District Court for the District of Nevada. *See* RJN Exhibit 7.

### 6 **III. ARGUMENT**

#### 7 **A. Legal Standard**

8 A motion to dismiss based on the abstention doctrine is also considered as a motion to  
 9 dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. *See City of New York v. Milhelm Attea & Bros.,*  
 10 *Inc.*, 550 F. Supp. 2d 332, 341 (E.D.N.Y. 2008); *Dostert v. Neely*, 498 F. Supp. 1144, 1146  
 11 (S.D.W. Va. 1980).

12 Subject matter jurisdiction is an essential element to every lawsuit and must be  
 13 demonstrated "at the successive stages of the litigation." *Chapman v. Pier 1 Imports (U.S.), Inc.*,  
 14 631 F.3d 939, 954 (9th Cir. 2011) (citing *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 561, 112 S.  
 15 Ct. 2130 (1992)). The existence of subject matter jurisdiction is an ongoing inquiry that a court  
 16 must conduct sua sponte in order to continue the case. *Chapman*, 631 F.3d at 954; *Bernhardt v.*  
 17 *County of Los Angeles*, 279 F.3d 862, 868 (9th Cir. 2002). Where subject matter jurisdiction is  
 18 absent, a court has no discretion and must dismiss the case. *Chapman*, 631 F.3d at 954.

19 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1), a challenge to the court's jurisdiction may be facial or  
 20 factual. *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004). In resolving a  
 21 factual attack on jurisdiction, the district court may review evidence beyond the complaint without  
 22 converting the motion to dismiss into a motion for summary judgment. *Id.*; *see also Terenkian v.*

---

23  
 24 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiff's inconsistencies are shown in Plaintiff's Verified Complaint in this action,  
 25 wherein he alleges Defendant is a California resident; however, in Plaintiff's Petition for  
 26 Dissolution of Marriage, filed three days later, in the Washington Action, he alleges Defendant is a  
 27 Washington resident. *See* RJN Exhibit 1, 5. Furthermore, the inherent inconsistency of filing a  
 28 derivative action in the Nevada Action, and the very next day, having Dream Marriage, Inc., at the  
 Plaintiff's direction, file an almost identical action shows Plaintiff's dubious use of the legal  
 system. *See* RJN Exhibit 1, 4.

1 *Republic of Iraq*, 694 F.3d 1122, 1131 (9th Cir. 2012) (“the defendant may introduce testimony,  
 2 affidavits, or other evidence to ‘dispute[ ] the truth of the allegations that, by themselves, would  
 3 otherwise invoke federal jurisdiction”). Furthermore, “no presumptive truthfulness attaches to  
 4 plaintiff’s allegations.” *Terenkian*, 694 F.3d at 1131. If the factual basis for jurisdiction is  
 5 challenged, the evidence must be weighed by the court and the plaintiff bears the burden of  
 6 proving jurisdiction exists. *Safe Air for Everyone*, 373 F.3d at 1039. Because Defendant is  
 7 submitting additional facts and declarations regarding pending state court proceedings, the  
 8 challenge to subject matter jurisdiction is factual. Thus, Plaintiff bears the burden of proving this  
 9 Court has subject matter jurisdiction. *Id.*

10 **B. This Court Should Dismiss or Stay this Lawsuit on Abstention Grounds**

11 Ordinarily, “the pendency of an action in the state court is no bar to proceedings  
 12 concerning the same matter in the Federal court having jurisdiction.” *Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Saudi*  
 13 *Basic Indus. Corp.*, 544 U.S. 280, 292, 125 S. Ct. 1517 (2005) (quoting *McClellan v. Carland*, 217  
 14 U.S. 268, 282, 30 S. Ct. 501 (1910)). However, “[c]omity or abstention doctrines may, in various  
 15 circumstances, permit or require the federal court to stay or dismiss the federal action in favor of  
 16 the state-court litigation.” *Id.*

17 Federal courts may abstain from exercising jurisdiction in exceptional circumstances of  
 18 parallel, duplicative litigation in the interests of sound judicial administration and economy.  
 19 *Colorado River Water Conservation Dist. v. United States*, 424 U.S. 800, 817, 96 S. Ct. 1236  
 20 (1976). In *Colorado River*, the Supreme Court held that where there are substantially similar,  
 21 parallel actions in both federal and state court, a district court may abstain from entertaining the  
 22 federal suit when considerations of “wise judicial administration, giving regard to conservation of  
 23 judicial resources and comprehensive disposition of litigation” so dictate. *Id.* The Supreme Court  
 24 based its holding on balancing, inter alia, (1) whether the state court first assumed jurisdiction over  
 25 a property, if any; (2) the inconvenience of the federal forum; (3) the desirability of avoiding  
 26 piecemeal litigation; (4) the order in which jurisdiction was obtained by the concurrent forums; (5)  
 27 whether federal law or state law provides the rule of decision on the merits; (6) whether the state  
 28 proceedings are adequate to protect the federal litigant’s rights; (7) whether exercising jurisdiction



1 would promote forum shopping; and (8) whether the two actions are substantially similar. *Id.*, 424  
2 U.S. at 818-819; *see also Moses H. Cone Mem'l Hosp. v. Mercury Const. Corp.*, 460 U.S. 1, 103  
3 S. Ct. 927, (1983).

4 The *Colorado River* abstention doctrine is not subject to precise rules, but rather should  
5 “be applied in a pragmatic, flexible manner with a view to the realities at hand,” taking into  
6 account “both the obligation to exercise jurisdiction and the combination of factors counseling  
7 against that exercise.” *Moses H. Cone*, 460 U.S. at 22. “The weight to be given to any one factor  
8 may vary greatly from case to case, depending on the particular setting of the case.” *Moses H.*  
9 *Cone*, 460 U.S. at 16. Here, every single *Colorado River* factor bodes in favor of abstention. The  
10 following *Colorado River* factors, grouped together for brevity and convenience of the Court,  
11 overwhelmingly support abstention in this case.

12 **1. State-Law Issues Predominate Over Federal Questions in This Action**

13 Taking into account the relevant facts of the Nevada Action and the California Family Law  
14 Action, the most significant *Colorado River* abstention factor is whether and to what extent federal  
15 law provides the rules of decision on the merits. *Moses H. Cone*, 460 U.S. at 16. Given the family  
16 law court’s broad jurisdictional authority in the California Family Law Action, where the right to  
17 and disposition of community property, such as the parties’ shares and interests in the company,  
18 are concerned, strong public policy suggests that state-law issues predominate over the set of facts  
19 in the Nevada Action. The proceedings in the family law court in California are adequate to  
20 protect the rights of both parties.

21 The action commenced here by Plaintiff is substantially similar and duplicative of the  
22 issues that will be resolved by the court in the California Family Law Action, including claims of  
23 reimbursement or improper handling of the community property company’s monies and assets.  
24 Federal courts traditionally refuse jurisdiction over marriages and divorces. *Sanders v. Robinson*,  
25 864 F.2d 630, 633 (9th Cir. 1988). This Court shall be inconvenienced if it has to decide on family  
26 law issues that will be resolved properly in the California Family Law Action. Therefore, the  
27 California family law court is better suited to determine the issues presented here.

28 ///

1                   **2.       This Action Poses a Serious Threat of Inconsistent Adjudication**

2           Maintaining the Nevada Action would present a danger of piecemeal and inconsistent  
3 adjudication between the California Family Law Action and the Nevada Action. *Colorado River*,  
4 424 U.S. at 818. In identifying the desirability of avoiding piecemeal litigation as a pertinent  
5 factor in *Colorado River*, the Supreme Court cited *Brillhart v. Excess Ins. Co. of America*, 316  
6 U.S. 491, 62 S. Ct. 1173 (1942):

7           Gratuitous interference with the orderly and comprehensive disposition of a state  
8 court litigation should be avoided. Where a district court is presented with a claim  
9 such as was made here, it should ascertain whether the questions in controversy  
10 between the parties to the federal suit, and which are not foreclosed under the  
11 applicable substantive law, can better be settled in the proceeding pending in the  
12 state court. This may entail inquiry into the scope of the pending state court  
13 proceeding and the nature of defenses open there. The federal court may have to  
14 consider whether the claims of all parties in interest can satisfactorily be  
15 adjudicated in that proceeding, whether necessary parties have been joined, whether  
16 such parties are amenable to process in that proceeding, etc.

17 *Colorado River*, 424 U.S. at 818 (citing *Brillhart*, 316 U.S. at 495). Under these standards, it is  
18 clear that the issues raised in this lawsuit can be better settled by the court in the California Family  
19 Law Action. *See Glade v. Glade*, 38 Cal. App. 4th 1441, 45 Cal. Rptr. 2d 695 (Cal. App. 2d Dist.  
20 1995) (where the court abstained because that there was a threat of multiple actions and  
21 inconsistent verdicts which could undermine the family law court's ability to characterize and  
22 dispose of parties' community property); *accord Askew v. Askew*, 22 Cal. App. 4th 942, 961, 28  
23 Cal. Rptr. 2d 284 (Cal. App. 4th Dist. 1994) ("After a family law court acquires jurisdiction to  
24 divide community property in a dissolution action, no other department of a superior court may  
25 make an order adversely affecting that division.").

26           The court in the California Family Law Action will resolve all said claims, and any  
27 decision here poses a real threat of inconsistent adjudications between state and federal forums, a  
28 thicket that will have to be untangled at great cost at a later time. The issues herein, guised as a  
derivative suit in the present action, are the province of the California Family Law Action. There  
are no other shareholders of the Company, so Plaintiff's "shareholder derivative" model is flawed  
and disingenuous in the first instance, and all the subject matter is community property subject to



1 the California court's jurisdiction.

2 **3. The Superior Court of Los Angeles County, California Obtained**  
 3 **Jurisdiction Prior to This Court**

4 The chronological order in which jurisdiction was obtained over the present subject matter  
 5 also supports abstention in this case. *Colorado River*, 424 U.S. at 818. The questions of "priority  
 6 should not be measured exclusively by which complaint was filed first, but rather in terms of how  
 7 much progress has been made in the [respective] actions." *Moses H. Cone*, 460 U.S. at 21.

8 The court in the California Family Law Action confirmed that the *res* of the marriage is in  
 9 the state of California, and first assumed jurisdiction over the property. Further, not only was the  
 10 California Family Law Action filed a month prior to the Nevada Action, there has been more  
 11 progress in the California Family Law Action than here. This present motion is the only issue  
 12 pending in the Nevada Action. The California family law court has already denied Plaintiff's  
 13 motion to quash Defendant's petition for dissolution, thereby confirming the family law court's  
 14 jurisdiction, and has set a January 14, 2014, hearing for Defendant's motion for control of the  
 15 company. Therefore, this factor also favors abstention.

16 **4. Plaintiffs Filed This Lawsuit in Reaction to the State Court Action**

17 The vexatious and reactive nature of the Nevada Action heavily supports abstention in this  
 18 case. *Moses H. Cone*, 460 U.S. at 17, n. 20. Plaintiff's dubious use of the legal system by  
 19 commencing duplicative and meritless actions, which one forum has already abstained from  
 20 hearing, further favors abstention. Plaintiff filed two separate civil actions duplicative of the  
 21 California Family Law Action, and he also filed a separate Washington divorce action, which  
 22 repeats the matters at issue in California. Plaintiff deliberately engaged in forum shopping by  
 23 bringing this instant action and parallel state and federal actions in an effort to drain Defendant's  
 24 financial assets. Therefore, this factor also favors abstention.

25 In conclusion, the foregoing *Colorado River* abstention factors weigh in favor of this Court  
 26 either dismissing or staying the present matter.

27 ///

28 ///

**C. The Verified Complaint Should Be Dismissed on *Forum Non Conveniens* Grounds, Or In The Alternative, Transferred**

The doctrine of *forum non conveniens* also requires that the Verified Complaint be dismissed. A case may be dismissed on *forum non conveniens* grounds if: 1) there is an adequate alternative forum and 2) the balance of private and public interest factors favors dismissal. *Sinochem Int'l Co. Ltd. v. Malaysia Int'l Shipping Corp.*, 549 U.S. 422, 429, 127 S. Ct. 1184, 1190 (2007). Even if jurisdiction and proper venue are established, a court still may dismiss the action for *forum non conveniens*. See *American Dredging Co. v. Miller*, 510 U.S. 443, 448, 114 S. Ct. 981 (1994).

In determining whether a suit should be dismissed on grounds of *forum non conveniens*, the private interest factors to be considered include: (1) the residence of the parties and the witnesses; (2) the forum's convenience to the litigants; (3) access to physical evidence and other sources of proof; (4) whether unwilling witnesses can be compelled to testify; (5) the cost of bringing witnesses to trial; (6) the enforceability of the judgment; and (7) all other practical problems that make trial of a case easy, expeditious and inexpensive. *Fortaner v. Boeing Co.*, 504 F. App'x 573, 580 (9th Cir. 2013). The public interest factors to be considered include: (1) local interest of [the] lawsuit; (2) the court's familiarity with governing law; (3) burden on local courts and juries; (4) congestion in the court; and (5) the costs of resolving a dispute unrelated to this forum. *Fortaner*, 504 F. App'x at 581. As discussed below, each factor weighs in favor of dismissal in this case, or in the alternative, transfer to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Here, California affords a suitable forum, as evidenced by the Plaintiff's initial California Federal Action and the ongoing California Family Law Action. Further, both private and public factors favor California as the forum with the greater interest in this litigation. The public interest factors discussed in Section III(B)(1), *supra*, each weigh in favor of dismissal or transfer. The court in the California Family Law Action is well-suited and familiar with resolving the issues of this action. Again, there is no need for this action to continue and burden this Court when the only connection to the state of Nevada is its original incorporation.

1 In terms of the private factors, Defendant resides in Los Angeles, California with her son,  
2 and Defendant has strong business affiliations in Los Angeles, California. Neither party resides in  
3 the state of Nevada. Moreover, the vast majority of the allegations relate to events that occurred in  
4 California. The single connection to Nevada is that Dream Marriage Group, Inc. is incorporated  
5 here.

6 “Perhaps the most important private interest is access to evidence.” *Ford v. Brown*, 319  
7 F.3d 1302, 1308 (11th Cir. 2003). There is no evidence pertinent to this action in Nevada. As the  
8 California family law court noted in its tentative ruling reiterating its jurisdiction, the Company  
9 maintains at least 26 corporate bank accounts in California. *See* RJN Exhibit 6. The bulk of  
10 evidence, witnesses, such as the company’s employees, or other sources of proof are all located in  
11 California. Again, given the California family law court’s broad jurisdictional authority and the  
12 issues presented in both cases, strong public policy suggests that California is the more appropriate  
13 forum.

14 Plaintiff’s Verified Complaint should be dismissed on *forum non conveniens* grounds, or in  
15 the alternative, transferred to the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

16 ///

17 ///

18 ///

19 ///

20 ///

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///



1 **III. CONCLUSION**

2 For the foregoing reasons, Defendant respectfully requests that this Court dismiss or, in the  
3 alternative, stay Plaintiff's Verified Complaint on abstention grounds; or, dismiss Plaintiff's  
4 Verified Complaint or, in the alternative, transfer to the United States District Court for the  
5 Central District of California on grounds of *forum non conveniens*.

6  
7 DATED this 5th day of December, 2013.

8  
9 **WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO,**  
10 **SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP**

11 By: /s/ Bradley Schrager, Esq.  
12 Bradley Schrager, Esq.  
13 Nevada State Bar No. 10217  
14 Daniel Bravo, Esq.  
15 Nevada State Bar No. 13078  
16 WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO,  
17 SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP  
18 3556 E. Russell Road, 2nd Floor  
19 Las Vegas, Nevada 89120-2234

20  
21 *Attorney for Defendant Anastasia Popova*  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am an employee of Wolf, Rifkin, Shapiro, Schulman & Rabkin, LLP, and that on the 5th day of December, 2013, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing MOTION TO DISMISS OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO STAY ON GROUNDS OF ABSTENTION, OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO TRANSFER ON GROUNDS OF *FORUM NON CONVENIENS* upon all counsel of record by electronically serving the document using the Court's electronic filing system.

By /s/ Michael J. Hannon

Michael J. Hannon, an Employee of  
WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO, SCHULMAN &  
RABKIN, LLP

EXHIBIT A



1 Bradley Schrager, Esq.  
Nevada State Bar No. 10217  
2 Daniel Bravo, Esq.  
Nevada State Bar No. 13078  
3 WOLF, RIFKIN, SHAPIRO,  
4 SCHULMAN & RABKIN, LLP  
3556 E. Russell Road, 2nd Floor  
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89120-2234  
Telephone: (702) 341-5200/Fax: (702) 341-5300  
6 Email: bschrager@wrslawyers.com

7 *Attorney for Defendant Anastasia Popova*

8  
9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

10 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

11  
12 ILIA N. ZAVIALOV, in the right of and for  
the benefit of DREAM MARRIAGE GROUP,  
13 INC.,

Case No: 2:13-cv-02090-JAD-VCF

14 Plaintiff,

15 vs.

16 ANASTASIA POPOVA, DOES 1 through  
17 50, Inclusive,

18 Defendants,

19 -and-

20 DREAM MARRIAGE GROUP, INC.,

21 Nominal Party.  
22

23  
24 **DECLARATION OF ZACHARY J. FRUCHTENGARTEN**

25 I, Zachary J. Fruchtengarten, under penalty of perjury, declare as follows:

26 Our office was retained to represent Anastasia Popova in response to Ilia Zavialov's filing  
27 of a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage, in Clark County, Washington on October 18, 2013.  
28 There was already a pending Dissolution of Marriage action previously filed by Ms. Popova on

1 approximately September 6, 2013 in Los Angeles County, California and Mr. Zaviolov was served  
2 well prior to his filing in Washington. Mr. Zaviolov alleged in his filing in Washington that  
3 Ms. Popova was temporarily living in California and that Washington was the home state of the  
4 parties' child.

5 On Friday, November 7, 2013 I sent correspondence to Mr. Zaviolov's Washington  
6 counsel, Howard Marshack notifying him that I had been retained to represent Ms. Popova, and  
7 that I was filing a limited appearance in this matter to contest subject matter jurisdiction, personal  
8 jurisdiction and UCCJEA jurisdiction in Washington. I requested that he provide advance notice  
9 if he planned to present any orders to the Washington Court.

10 On November 8, 2013, I received correspondence from Mr. Marshack along with a  
11 Motion/Declaration for Ex-Parte Restraining Order and for Order to Show Cause-Financial  
12 Matters. He intended on presenting the order to the court on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 1  
13 p.m. at the Clark County Courthouse.

14 The order itself would have restrained Ms. Popova as an individual or as an officer,  
15 shareholder, director in the capacity of Dream Marriage, Inc. from transferring, assigning, selling,  
16 spending, disbursing, removing, encumbering, concealing or disposing of any property except for  
17 the necessities of life and requiring each party to notify the other of any expenditure in excess of  
18 \$2,500 made after the order. There were many other provisions in the order which included  
19 prohibiting Ms. Popova from removing documents, bills, papers, personal property, and  
20 restraining her from interfering with "business matters."

21 We appeared at ex parte on Tuesday November 12, 2013 in front of Clark County  
22 Commissioner Jennifer Snider. Ex-parte is an informal proceeding and it was not on the record. I  
23 informed the court that prior to Mr. Zaviolov filing in Washington, a Petition for Dissolution of  
24 Marriage had been filed in California and served and that there was a hearing for December 3,  
25 2013 to address whether it would keep jurisdiction as Mr. Zaviolov was contesting jurisdiction.

26 My main argument was that until California released jurisdiction, Washington had no  
27 ability to order any relief and lacked subject matter jurisdiction. I also made the court aware of  
28 our other jurisdictional arguments. Commissioner Snider agreed with me and refused to sign the

1 order that was presented by Mr. Zavialov's counsel. She recognized that Washington had no  
2 jurisdiction to sign any orders until California had made a decision on jurisdiction. She urged the  
3 parties to try to enter into some orders in California to address the allegations made by Mr.  
4 Zavialov in his declaration since that was the appropriate jurisdiction at that time. Since that court  
5 appearance, I have had no correspondence or communication with Mr. Zavialov's Washington  
6 attorney on this matter.

7 Dated this 4th Day of December, 2013.

8  
9   
10 Zachary J. Fruchtengarten  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28